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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5419 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVIN FARM IN LEBANON.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill specifically authorizes the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) commissioner to place a conservation or preservation restriction on the state's "Savin Farm" property in Lebanon. By law, landowners (including the state) may create conservation restrictions in written instruments to maintain land or water areas predominantly in their natural, scenic, or open condition, or in agricultural, farming, forest, or open space use. Preservation restrictions are similar, but are meant to preserve historically significant structures or sites (CGS § 47-42a).

Under the bill, a conservation or preservation restriction on the farm may (1) conserve the property for agricultural use and (2) enable the commissioner to lease, permit, or license any part of the farm to one or more people or entities to engage in agriculture. It requires a restriction to allow for the continuance of any activities that historically took place on the farm, according to the October 23, 1995 draft memorandum of understanding between DoAg and the Department of Environmental Protection (now the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original file which established a procedure to preserve and manage the "Savin Farm" property by requiring DoAg to grant a permanent conservation easement on the farm to a nonprofit organization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 4 (03/17/2014)

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (04/11/2014)